

APPLICANTS: MERON, Gavriel et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/963,950
FILED: September 26, 2001
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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the Preliminary Amendment.

Claims 8, 16, 22 and 29 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve all rights to prosecute these claims.

Claims 1-4, 6, 10, 18-19, 23-25, 27, 31-32, 38, 40-45 and 47-50 are currently being amended.

Claims 52-69 are being added as new claims.

Applicants assert the amendments to the claims and the new claims add no new matter. The amendments to the claims and the addition of the new claims are being made to clarify what Applicants regard as their invention. Further, the amendments to the claims do not narrow the scope of the claims, are not related to the statutory requirements for patentability, and are not in response to prior art rejections. Accordingly, these amendments are not subject to the complete bar against the use of the Doctrine of Equivalents as outlined in *Festo Corporation v. Shoketsu Kinsoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd.*

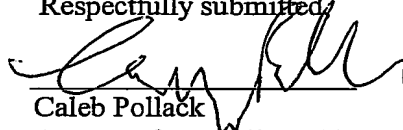
Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

Please charge the large entity fee of \$252 for 3 new independent claims over 3 and \$270 for 15 new dependent claims over 20 to deposit account 05-0649. No other fees associated with this paper are believed due, however if any other fees are due, please charge such fees to deposit account 05-0649.

Respectfully submitted,


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